J&K during the current year are given below:—

Month	*No. of firing incidents*	*No. of Civilians Killed*
January	219	—
February	194	—
March	196	—
April	203	—
May	284	1
June	321	4

Appropriate response is given by our troops to Pakistani firings, taking due care that the situation remains localised and at the same time it proves punitive and effective in nature.

Weekly telephonic conversations between Directors General of Military Operations of the two countries and local level flag meetings are utilised to convey our concern at such incidents. These channels have been effective in keeping tensions under check along the border.

Private Industry in DRDO Laboratories

3075. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to throw open to private industry certain laboratories of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO);

(b) if so, the broad areas of research and development in which the private sector would be allowed to operate;

(c) the specific measures worked out to safeguard the sensitive research work of the DRDO; and

(d) if so, on what coditions any foreign private research institutions/industry would be permitted in the DRDO research labs?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The areas of research and development in which the partnership of private sector would be further enhanced are life sciences, water purification, materials including composites, electronics, advanced computing, robotics and artificial intelligence.

(c) and (d) Adequate measures will be taken to ensure that sensitive and classified information about research and development programmes of DRDO is not disclosed.

F-404 Engines for LCA

3076. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final decision has been taken by the US-based GE Aircraft Engines Company regarding likely embargo on supply of F-404 engines for our Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) in the wake of US sanctions;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the alternative sources being tapped for supply of the substitute engines; and

(c) the extent to which the LCA project is likely to be further delayed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The recently imposed sanctions have resulted US based GE Company to withdraw product support for the earlier supplied F-404 engines for the indigenously developed LCA. The F-404 engines will be used only for the initial two LCAs (TD-1) and (TD-2). Product support now exists based on our experience. Indigenously developed 'Kaveri' engines will be used for the subsequent LCAs prototypes (PV1 to PV5).

(c) The LCA programme will not be affected by the sanctions, as the small impact on its schedule is being overcome by concertrated effort by a national team.